

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02691

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS
FROM DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, RQ

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO AND UN

1. DURING MY FEBRUARY 19 MEETING WITH PUERTO RICAN SECRETARY OF STATE ALBORS, I REVIEWED OUR STRATEGY IN UN ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE. I ASSURED HIM AND ADVISORS THAT WE WERE DEVELOPING PLANS FOR UPCOMING COMMITTEE OF 24 DISCUSSION OF ISSUE AND BEYOND IF NECESSARY. I TOLD ALBORS THAT WE WERE COMPILING TACTICS FOR HANDLING EACH OF KEY COUNTRIES ON COMMITTEE. WE WOULD BE PROVIDING HIM WITH SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ON HOW HE AND GOVERNOR COULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF OUR EFFORTS. I STRESSED THAT WE FELT IT ESSENTIAL THAT PUERTO RICO PLAY FRONT ROLE IN SEEKING TO EDUCATE KEY UN AND PARTICULARLY COMMITTEE OF 24 MEMBERS ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMONWEALTH AND U.S. GOVERNMENTS. I ALSO ASKED ALBORS BACKING FOR USIA AND PR INFORMATION OFFICE JOINT EFFORT TO ORGANIZE VISIT OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS TO SAN JUAN IN MARCH.

2. ALBORS SAID PUERTO RICO WAS PREPARED TO WORK CLOSELY
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WITH DEPARTMENT AND USUN IN MANAGEMENT OF UPCOMING UN

PROBLEMS. HE WAS AWARE OF AUSTRALIA/NORWAY EFFORT AND ANXIOUS TO HAVE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRESSURE POINTS WE SEE ON EACH OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 KEY MEMBERS. HE SAID THAT HE AND THE GOVERNOR WERE PREPARED TO DEVOTE TIME NECESSARY IN SAN JUAN OR NEW YORK TO TALK TO HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENTS WHOSE VOTES OR INFLUENCE ARE IMPORTANT. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT IN THE ELECTION YEAR, HE AND GOVERNOR COULD ONLY BE USED ON IMPORTANT MATTERS; OTHERWISE AGRAIT WOULD BE MANAGER OF PUERTO RICAN EFFORT AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON AS NECESSARY.

3. I LEFT WITH ALBORS A COPY OF OUR CIRCULAR AIRGRAM ON PUERTO RICO. HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE HIS STAFF REVIEW IT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ADDITIONAL MATERIAL THAT MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SELECT POSTS. HE MADE CLEAR THAT PUERTO RICO IS PREPARED TO INVITE OFFICIALS TO SAN JUAN.

4. WE ALSO DISCUSSED COMMUNICATIONS AND NEED FOR CLOSER CONSULTATION OVER THE UPCOMING MONTHS. IT IS APPARENT THAT WE SHOULD HAVE CAPACITY TO SEND CONFIDENTIAL STATE MESSAGES TO GOVERNOR, ALBORS AND AGRAIT. WE CAN PROBABLY DO THIS THROUGH MILITARY FACILITIES IN SAN JUAN IF NECESSARY SECURITY PROCEDURES ARE ADHERED TO. I HAVE ASKED TED HEAVNER (ARA/CCA) TO WORK WITH SY AND COMMUNICATIONS TO SEE WHETHER TWO-WAY CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS CAN BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN STATE AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO GOVERNMENT.

SPIERS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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